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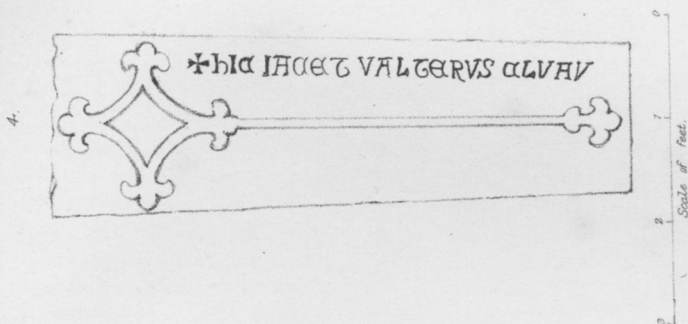
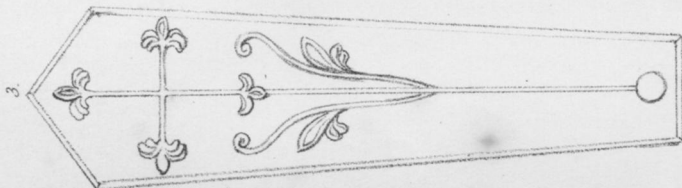
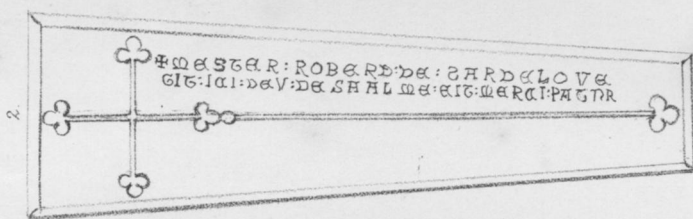
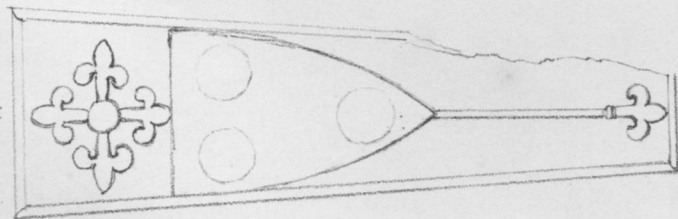
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CROSS-SLABS, DOMINICAN ABBEY.
Kilkenny

rie or Civill, to whome it shall or may concerne, in all provinces, Citties, Countie towns, and liberties of our partie through this Kingdome, to take speciall notice of this our present Act, and with all dilligent speed, to cause the same to be put in due execution within their severall jurisdictions respectiuelie, with [*which ?*] all and everie of the Confederate Catholiques and their said adherence are particularly to observe and fulfill att their uttermost perill. Dated att Kilkeny, the 15th of 9^{ber} 1642, and in the 18th yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lo : Charles, by the Grace of God King of greate Brittain France and Ireland. God save the King. copia vera.

“ Mountgarrett	“ Hugo Ardmachanus
“ Nich : Plunkett	“ Jo : Clonfertensis
“ Gerrald Fennell	“ Pat : Darsy
“ Geffery Browne	“ Richard Belling
	“ Geo : Cumin.”

ON THE DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS AT THE DOMINICAN ABBEY, KILKENNY.

BY JOHN G. A. PRIM.

[*Read at the Meeting of November 5th.*]

Since the meeting of this Society in September last considerable local interest has been excited by the discovery of some old sepulchral monuments within the ancient precincts of the Black Friars of Kilkenny, and I have deemed it proper to note down the facts as they occurred, in order that an authentic statement of the particulars may be placed on record in the Society's Transactions.

The discovery was made on the 10th of September, by Messrs. Richard and Henry Preston, sons of Mr. Richard Preston, sen., agent to Mr. Hare, of Durrow, for a property in Kilkenny City, partially consisting of a row of houses, of a rather humble class, forming the west side of Friar's-street, and built on the site of a portion of the ancient cloisters of the Dominicans. A hole having been accidentally made in the mortar floor of an apartment in one of the houses, a sculptured stone was observable at the distance of about a foot beneath the surface. The Messrs. Preston increased the aperture in order to ascertain the nature of the sculptures, and thus brought to light a sepulchral monument consisting of a single block of limestone, of great thickness, and of the ancient coffin-shaped class, ornamented with a foliated cross in bold relief, and bearing in the centre of the stone, and covering a portion of the shaft of the cross, a large heater-shaped shield, charged with three roundels (fig. 1. in plate). The excavations necessary for

clearing away the rubbish round this monument, caused the discovery of a second tomb, lying by the side of the former one, similarly shaped, but consisting of a more ponderous mass of stone ; it was ornamented solely with a heater-shaped shield, charged with similar armorial bearings, thus showing that both tombs had been placed to members of the same family, and, apparently, occupied their original position. The investigation having been resumed next day, on the other side of the first found monument, a third tomb became apparent, which was of a still more interesting character, as in addition to bearing a foliated cross in relief—though not as boldly cut as the former—it displayed an inscription in the old incised Lombardic letter (fig. 2. in plate). The three tombs were raised and removed, for preservation, within the present abbey precincts, and here for a time the explorations terminated ; but, at the request of the Secretaries of this Society, the Messrs. Preston resumed their search for ancient monuments, a month subsequently, by driving an iron rod into the earth at intervals throughout the entire of the ground floor and yard of the house. The result was that at about three feet beneath the floor of another room, indications of the existence of another tomb were given, by the bar striking on a large stone, and upon digging, a fourth monument was brought to light, and transferred to the abbey. It was a coffin-shaped stone, the top pointed in a rather unusual form, and bore a very beautifully sculptured cross of a pattern uncommon in this locality, branches of foliage springing from the shaft, midway between the arms and base, and giving a very graceful effect to the design (fig. 3. in plate). On this monument, however, there are neither armorial bearings nor inscription. The explorers were anxious to dig to some depth beneath the site of the monuments, with a view to setting at rest the fact of their having occupied their original position, as the existence of remains of mortality below, if found, would sufficiently indicate ; but it was impossible to carry out their intention, owing to the strength with which water sprung up at the removal of every shovel full of clay.

A considerable difficulty exists as to the identifying of the family to which the first two monuments belonged, owing to the absence of any indication of the tinctures with which either the field of the escutcheons or the roundels should be blazoned. There are many houses to which such insignia would appertain, the various blazonings making the difference ; thus, *or three torteaux*, for Courtney ; *ermine three pellets*, for Croohdayk ; *gules three bezants*, for Dyngham ; *purpure three bezants*, for Pacy ; *ermine three torteaux*, for Besseilles ; *argent three pellets*, for Lune ; *argent three torteaux*, for Fitzarms and Beoley ; *gules three plates*, for Boltesham and for Mussard ; *sable three plates*, for Clerke ; *ermine three bezants*, for Smyth ; *sable three bezants*, for Porcer—and for aught I know there may be even other families bearing the three roundels upon their hereditary escutcheons. If, however, any one of the families enumerated were known to have been connected in the thirteenth century—for to that period the monuments clearly belong—with the County or City of Kilkenny, we would be afforded a clue towards re-

moving the difficulty. I have not been able to find any documentary or printed evidence of such a fact, but it is proper to state that we are not left without a very reasonable conjecture, at least, and from a source from which the best information upon such a subject could possibly be derived. Sir Wm. Betham, Ulster King-of-Arms, having been applied to for his opinion, suggests the family of Courtney, now earls of Devon, as likely to have the best claim, and he supposes their connexion with the locality to have thus arisen. Sir Hugh Courtney, knight, baron of Okehampton, who died in 1391, married Elinor, daughter of Hugh le Despencer, earl of Winchester, father of Hugh le Despencer, who married Eleanor, daughter and co-heir of Gilbert, earl of Gloucester and lord of Kilkenny, and was executed A.D. 1326. It is not improbable, from the connexion with the le Despenchers, that members of the Courtney family may have visited Kilkenny, died there, and have been buried in the Black Abbey. This suggestion of Sir William's is at all events the best which has yet been made, and must serve till some one can offer a more probable speculation.

With regard to the third monument discovered (fig. 2. in plate) there is fortunately no such difficulty in the way of ascertaining the name of the owner. The inscription, which runs along the left side of the monument parallel with the shaft of the cross, is in Norman-French, as follows:—

MESTER : ROBERD : DE : SARDELOVE :

GIT : ICI : DEU : DE SA ALME : EIT : MERCI : PAT NR.

The letter S in "Sardelove," has been reversed by the stone-cutter, and the colon with which it seems to have been the intention to divide each word, has been in some places omitted. The translation has been differently given, as—"Master Robert de Sardaloue lies here, God, our father, on his soul have mercy," or "God have mercy on his soul. Pater noster." I am informed by the Rev. James Graves that the dean of Clonmacnoise, who is a good authority on such a subject, considers the latter the most correct reading, the concluding contracted words, PAT NR, being intended, as he conceives, to suggest to the reader the repetition of a pater noster for the soul's rest of the departed Master Robert. Sir William Betham states that the Sardelowe or Sardeloue family were very ancient in the County of Norfolk, and are still, or were very lately, in existence there. Their arms, which are not sculptured on this tomb, are—*argent a chevron gules between three cross crosslets fitchy sable and vice versa*. John de Shardelow was a judge in England in the reign of Edward I. and Edward II.; in the rolls of parliament his name occurs in 1340 and 1391. But we are enabled to identify the person for whom the monument was erected, by the "White Book of Ossory," from which it appears that "Magister Robertus de Serdeli" was one of the canons of the Cathedral of St. Canice, and in that capacity, together with Henry de Pembroke, who was dean of St. Canice from 1245 to 1250, witnessed a grant made by the then bishop of Ossory. The name appears to have been also sometimes written "Schardelowe."

The discovery, in connexion with the Dominican monastery, of tombs which evidently belonged to men of superior degree, is of particular interest, as that house was once famous for the noble rank of the persons there interred. The founder of the abbey, William earl Marshal, jun., was buried in the choir in 1231, and in 1234 his ill-fated brother Richard, who fell on the Curragh of Kildare, betrayed by his treacherous friend de Marisco, also, according to some chronicles, received sepulture there, whilst others allege that the latter was interred in the religious establishment founded by himself, the house of the Grey Friars. Dr. Hanmer, who held a prebend in the Cathedral of St. Canice, writing of him in the latter part of the sixteenth century, says :—

“ His tombe (with the tombes of eightene Knights, that came over at the Conquest and resting in that [the Black] Abbey), at the suppression of the Monasterie, was defaced, and the inhabitants there turned them to their private uses ; and of some they made swine-troughs, so that there remaineth no Monument in the said Abbey, save one stone, whereupon the picture of a Knight is portraied, bearing a shield about his necke, wherein the *Cantwels* armes are insculped ; and yet the people there call it Ryddir in Curry, that is, *the Knight slaine at the Curraghe*.”—*Hanmer's Chronicle*, p. 174.

Notwithstanding Hanmer's testimony, there are at this day five tombs, independent of those recently discovered, to be found at the Black Abbey ;* but it is probable that all of them may have been dug up from time to time amongst the ruins, since the death of the worthy chronicler ; two of them certainly were thus brought to light modernly, having lain beneath the surface for a considerable period. These five tombs may be thus described and enumerated :—

A coffin-shaped slab, six feet long, bearing a foliated cross in relief ; without any inscription.

Effigy of a lady, wearing a long loose robe, hanging in folds, confined with an embroidered girdle round the waist, and with very wide sleeves. The head is detached, and the entire monument more or less defaced.

A large coffin-shaped slab, bearing an incised foliated cross, over which is cut, in high relief, a rather inelegantly executed head of a knight, with a mailed coif, very flat at top. Like the two former, there is no inscription. This tomb was discovered some twelve or fourteen

*The monuments at this abbey must have been at one period very numerous. The lesser tower, which was an afterthought, erected a couple of centuries subsequent to the rest of the structure, and placed so as to block up the original western window and door of the nave, seems to have been almost entirely built of old tombs ; in the staircase, and other places where flag-shaped stones were required, they are yet to be seen in large numbers, ornamented with foliated crosses, and some having fragments of the Norman-French, and Latin inscriptions, in the incised Lombardic characters of the thirteenth century. It would thus appear that the Dominicans themselves set the example of appropriating the old monuments to base uses, which so much aroused the indignation of the chronicler, after the suppression of the house. The removal of the ancient choir, towards the close of the last century, in order to erect a dwelling house for the modernly re-established community, whilst there was ample room for erecting the edifice within the abbey precincts without injuring any part of the then existing ruins, is also to be regretted.

years ago, by a person digging in the piece of ground used at present as the garden of the friars.

Fragment of a small coffin-shaped slab, bearing a foliated cross in relief. The lower part of the cross is broken away and lost. No inscription.

A coffin-shaped slab, five feet long, bearing a very graceful incised cross, and this inscription in Lombardic letters, also incised:—*HIC JACET VALTERVS CLUAY*. There is no date, but it evidently belongs to the latter end of the thirteenth century (fig. 4. in plate). This tomb was discovered on the 19th July, 1846, the famine year, by labourers employed in excavating a sewer for the relief committee, in Friar's-street, at a few yards distance from the house in which the monuments were found last September. It was met with at a foot beneath the surface of the present street, and evidently rested in its original position, within what was once the cemetery of the monastery, as upon digging to the depth of about three feet beneath it, a perfect human skeleton was discovered.

There are also two stone coffins, each seven feet in length, by two feet in width at the top, and one foot six inches at bottom. One of them, which is much injured, is adorned on the sides and ends by a succession of Gothic niches and quatrefoils; the other is quite perfect, but unornamented. But the tomb of the knight described by Hamner as existing in his time, unfortunately has disappeared. There is, however, a tradition amongst the people of the neighbourhood, which seems to be well founded, that the effigial monument of a knight in armour, and which they declare to be that of the earl Marshal, lies beneath the floor of the parlour of the present prior, Rev. Mr. O'Regan, at the north side of where the high altar stood in the ancient choir. This is precisely the position of a founder's tomb, but if there be really such a monument there, I should presume it more likely to be the one "wherein the Cantwels armes are insculped," and still, though buried beneath a dwelling house for at least seventy-five years, believed by the people to belong to "the knight slaine at the Curraghe." It is also alleged in the locality, that many other monuments are concealed beneath houses and gardens, and I am convinced that the expense and trouble of a full investigation of the matter would be amply repaid.

As I have thus referred to the traditions of the neighbourhood, although it is wandering from the professed subject of my report, which should properly only have reference to the particulars of the recent discovery of monuments at the abbey, I trust I may be permitted to take this opportunity of also placing on record the recollections of, if not the oldest, at least the oldest intelligent inhabitant, as to the appearance of the building before the changes which took place in it during the last three quarters of a century. Mr. John Glindon, of Newbuilding-lane, now in his eighty-fifth year, states that he was about ten years old when the Rev. John Meade, a Dominican friar from Cork, and grand-uncle to the present Rev. Mr. Meade, of the

Black Abbey, came here and became tenant of the ruins, at £4 per annum, from Mr. Laurence Daly, who held by a lease from the family of Tynte, of the County of Wicklow, they possessing the property in right of a long lease from the corporation of Kilkenny, the original grantees of the Crown on the suppression of the monastery. The choir was then (circ. A.D. 1775) standing, running out into the street about three feet further than the railings in front of the present abbey-house, and narrowing Friar's-street very much. It contained a very large eastern window, though not so large as that of the transept, now used as a chapel. There were, moreover, five windows in the east wall of the chapel, but the centre one, the mullions and tracery of which were more handsome than all the others, was taken out and carried off to Dublin to be put up in a church there, by an alderman of that City, as Mr. Glindon always heard, and with the permission of the mayor and corporation of Kilkenny!* The lesser tower was then nearly as high as the great belfry tower, and there was a small chamber under the watch-tower at its top, known as "Cromwell's bed." He did not notice any effigial monument in the choir, but considers it very probable that one was there, and was covered over when the new house was being built, "for father John Meade was not the man to regard an old tomb or take the trouble of putting it out of the way." A row of building, apparently a portion of the ancient cloister, ran northwards from the east end of the choir, down the west side of Friar's-street, to Friar's-bridge, the windows of which were not arched like those of the ecclesiastical portion of the structure, but large, square, and flat-headed, with mullions and transoms. The tombs found last September must have been within this cloister or hall. At the Friar's-bridge end there was a separate compartment of the building, higher than the hall, and having great chimneys, said to have been the abbey kitchen. The arch of the fire-place, eight feet in its span, is yet to be seen in Mr. Richard Sullivan's bacon-yard premises, and this fire-place was even used so recently as the year 1812 to cook the great Black Abbey dinner, a political demonstration of the period. The original approach and entrance to the monastery also remained, being opposite the Butt's chapel at the present gateway to Mr. Michael Sullivan's tan-yard, from which an avenue, then known as Friar's-lane, ran to the building across an ancient bridge over the Bregach river, since removed. Father Meade, about seventy-five years since, threw down the choir to build the present abbey-house; and he intended to have roofed in the transept for a chapel, but did not remain long enough to put his designs into execution. In two or three years he was succeeded by father Shaw, of Mullingar, who, about seventy years since, roofed in the chapel, but

* An old man connected with the abbey, named Shea, states that he always heard that the window was put up in a church in the County of Wicklow. It is probable that this is the most correct statement, and that the act of Vandalism was committed by the Tynte family, whose property was in that County.

was not able to fit it up for service.* He took down the top story of the lesser tower in order to build, with the materials, the wall of the side aisle at the west of the chapel, and a portion of the north gable. The mortar of the tower was so hard that it was easier to break the solid stones than to dis sever them from one another. Father Shaw remained five years, and was succeeded by father Carberry, of Knocktopher, who was ordained in Rome for the purpose. After about seven years he was succeeded by father Ryan, of Waterford, who remained ten years. Father Andrew Fitzgerald, of Kilkenny, ordained for the purpose at Rome, then came, but having gone to Carlow in three years, he was succeeded by father Prendergast, a native of Dublin, and member of the Dominican Monastery of Lisbon. The chapel had remained roofed in, but unused, for thirty-four years; and the floor was unlevelled, covered with the *debris* of the original roof which had fallen in a couple of centuries before. Father Prendergast set about cleaning it out, wishing to get down to the original level, in order that the bases of the pillars might be seen and the row of arches on the west side thus restored to proper symmetry. Mr. Glindon assisted, as overseer of the workmen, and is therefore a competent witness of what occurred. At three feet below the present floor, they found the original floor, being a pavement of encaustic tiles in full preservation. Not at first understanding the use of the tiles, the labourers broke them and threw them out, but a considerable portion of this floor remains undisturbed to the present day. They met with some curious brick vaults under the tile floor, containing human bones, and they found five stone coffins lying open, empty, and without covers, on the original floor. One of these coffins they removed, and it is the unornamented one of the two which are still to be seen within the exterior precincts, the other having been always in the position in which it is at present. Whilst they were thus proceeding with the excavation, a spring of water suddenly burst in upon them from the south-east corner, nearly under the great window, and well nigh overwhelmed the workmen. They were obliged to abandon the design of sinking the floor to its original level, and the four remaining stone coffins they ranged along the east wall from the present altar railing to the sacristy door, placing in them all the human remains discovered in the explorations, and then covering them up. They met no tombs, to his knowledge, but there are many fragments of mullions and carved stones covered up under the present floor. Father Gavin succeeded father

* In the engraving of the abbey executed for Grose's "Antiquities," and published in 1793—only fifty-eight years since—the choir is represented as standing, the lesser tower is given at its full height, and the present chapel unroofed. Under these circumstances we must conclude either that Mr. Glindon has referred the events which he mentions to too early a date, or that this engraving was copied from a drawing made more than twenty years before the time of the publication. The latter seems the more probable suggestion, as Mr. Glindon's memory is not likely to fail him so far. In Grose's plate only four windows are given on the east side of the present chapel, but the aperture from which the fifth was taken is marked, apparently as being rudely built up.

Prendergast, and opened the chapel for divine service thirty-five or thirty-six years since.

There are some curious traditions still current concerning the Black Abbey, which Mr. Glindon states to have been even more generally remembered and talked of in his youth. One which always received the strictest credence was, that after Cromwell had taken Kilkenny, some distinguished ecclesiastics took refuge from the violence of his troops in a secret chamber of this friary. No one knew of their place of concealment except a few trusted friends, and amongst these was a woman named Thornton, who engaged to supply them every night with milk. This woman, for a bribe, betrayed the secret, and indicated to the Cromwellian soldiers where their victims would be found, by spilling the milk along the path from the outer gate to the spot where the entrance to the secret chamber should be sought. The result was, as the tradition has it, that the ecclesiastics were dragged from their concealment and put to death, whilst their betrayer received a grant of land as a reward. A family named Thornton still reside within a few miles of the City, and to this day they are frequently upbraided by their neighbours with the alleged treachery of their ancestor. There is no legend more prevalent amongst the inhabitants of the district around the abbey, than that six great bells of silver were secreted, at the time of the suppression, being buried near the ruins, and that the secret of the place where they are concealed has always been handed down from generation to generation, but confided only to the provincial of the Dominicans in Ireland and at Rome. Mr. Glindon says he never credited this tradition, as, in the first place, he did not think it likely church bells would be made of silver; and secondly, if any one knew where such valuable property was to be had, it would certainly have been brought to light before this. He, however, always heard and believed that one of the old peal of bells which belonged to this abbey—the material, however, being only metal—is still used to summon a congregation to prayer at the parish church of Blessington, in the County of Wicklow, though how it came to be transferred to that edifice he was never able to discover.

It would be interesting to ascertain whether there is any foundation for this tale about the bell, and the fact might easily be settled through means of some of the members of this Society, of whom there are more than one residing near Blessington. I am inclined to believe that the statement would be found correct, as there is really a bell, originally belonging to this abbey, existing in another part of the County of Wicklow, as is testified by the following inscription on the bell attached to the great clock of the market-house of Dunlavin:—

EST. CONVENTUS. S. DOMINICI. KILKENIÆ. ANNO. 1647.

I have been at some pains to trace the history of the removal of this bell, and I think I have fully succeeded. Henry Mainwaring, Esq., of Kilkenny, master in chancery, who died on the 1st March, 1635, held the Black Abbey, and its possessions, by lease from the corporation.

His daughter, Elizabeth, brought this property, by marriage, to the Rev. William Bulkeley, D.D., archdeacon of Dublin, ancestor of the viscounts Bulkeley, who was the proprietor of Dunlavin. Their son, Sir Richard Bulkeley, bart., on the 24th March, 1661, obtained a charter empowering Dunlavin to hold a weekly market, and two fairs annually. Sir Richard's grand-daughter and heiress, Hester, married the right hon. James Worth Tynte, who built the market-house of Dunlavin, and having also, in right of his wife, become the holder of the lease of the Black Abbey fane, we may consider it pretty certain that, requiring a bell for his new structure, he had little compunction in carrying off one of those formerly belonging to the Kilkenny Dominicans to suit his purpose. If the Bulkeley or Tynte families were in any way connected with Blessington, of which I am not informed, we can have little difficulty in believing that another of the peal of bells found its way to that locality.* It will be observed by the date on the Dunlavin bell that it could not have formed one of the original peal of the abbey, but must have been put up in the time of the Confederate Catholics, when the Dominicans were temporarily restored to possession of the building. The original bells were probably destroyed at the time of the general suppression of religious houses, as Dr. Mant (*History of the Church of Ireland*, vol. i. p. 164) states, on the authority of an unpublished roll in the custom house, Dublin, that, under a commission bearing date 3rd February, 1539, the gold and silver plate, jewels, ornaments, lead, bells, &c. of various abbeys were sold for the benefit of the king, and those of the Dominicans of Kilkenny brought a sum of £57. 17s. 5d. The abbey itself would, perhaps, have been more seriously injured than it has been, after the general suppression, but that it was long used as the County court house, and for some time as a town hall, in which the sovereigns, or chief magistrates of the corporation of Kilkenny, previous to its being raised to the dignity of a City, were sworn into office. In the great charter of the 9th James I., creating Kilkenny a City and its chief magistrate a mayor, the Black Abbey is noticed as the County sessions house, for which reason it is declared that its precinct shall always be taken as being situate in the County, and exempt from the jurisdiction of the mayor and corporation, though their property.

In conclusion, I will only observe that although my paper, which was originally intended as a mere report upon the discovery of the tombs

* We are indebted to William Owen, Esq., J.P., Blessington, for the information that there is a peal of six bells in that parish church, each of which bears the coat of arms of primate Boyle, and the date 1682, having been the gift of that prelate, who was the father of Morrough, first viscount Blessington, so created on the 23rd August, 1675. In Harris' *Ware*, vol. i. p. 131, it is stated that the gift of the bells is noticed in the inscription on a monument erected to the primate in Blessington church, in which they are designated "six musical bells." Perhaps the Dunlavin bell, when first removed from Kilkenny, may have been put up in Blessington church, and on primate Boyle's munificent gift it was removed to its present *locale*; so that the Kilkenny tradition may not be without foundation.—EDS.

at the Black Abbey, has grown into a rather prolix statement of some of the traditionary and historical recollections connected with that interesting building, I do not deem it necessary to make any apology to the Society, as I conceive it was of importance that all the matters treated of should be placed on record, before the old inhabitants who hold them in memory, shall have died away.

NOTES ON THE CASTLES IN THE FRESHFORD DISTRICT.

BY THE REV. JAMES MEASE, A.M.

[Read at the Meeting of May 7th.]

The social history of Ireland has yet to be written. It ought to be the object of antiquarian societies to provide materials for this; and among other, the ruined castles, which exist in such great numbers, and in so many parts of the country, cannot be overlooked. A full inquiry into this subject would embrace—1st. the names and localities of such ruins; 2ndly. their style and architecture; 3rdly. the date of the building; and 4thly. their owners. An examination of all these subjects, even though I should limit myself to my own peculiar district, would be much too extensive an undertaking for me; and would occupy more of the time of the Society than I could fairly claim. I purpose, therefore, merely to call your attention to this important subject, by giving a list of their names and localities; adding simply, on the other points, such casual observations as may be necessary to give a little life to an otherwise dry enumeration. I am fortunately enabled, through the kindness of Mr. Edmund Fitzpatrick, to illustrate this paper by several very accurate drawings of one of the ruins referred to.

These castles are of various forms. The most common type is that of a square building, with remarkably thick walls, varying in height from forty to eighty feet; in breadth from twenty to forty. The floors are sometimes supported on arches—sometimes by corbels. These are frequently so close that a very small space could have existed between them, and in such cases the interval could only have been used as a store-room. These stories are always accessible by a stone staircase, either straight or circular, in the thickness of the walls. The roof never projects over the walls, but is protected by battlements, the highest parts of which are, I believe, universally at the angles, except where the chimney is. They are with or without out-works. I need scarcely add, that such castles are found on the borders of England and Scotland, and are always indicative of a troubled state of society.

Let us suppose ourselves in the town of Freshford, and we shall leave